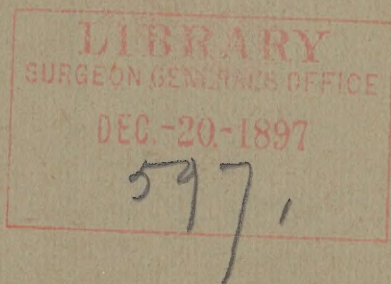


ROSE (A)

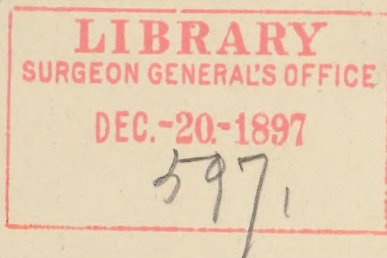
GREEK ANTHROPOLOGY.

BY
A. ROSE, M.D.

REPRINTED FROM THE
New York Medical Journal
for September 25, 1897.



*Reprinted from the New York Medical Journal
for September 25, 1897.*



GREEK ANTHROPOLOGY.

ATHENS, August 16, 1897.

To the Editor of the New York Medical Journal:

SIR: One of the noblest buildings of modern times is the Academy of Athens. As is well known, it was built at an expense of five million drachmas, the gift of a rich Greek, Simon G. Sinas. Its features in general, its statues, the gilding, and the colors give an idea of the splendor of classical architecture. All this has been well described and depicted.

However much we may admire this structure and its beauties, we shall find in one of its vast halls a treasure which is of much greater value still, of a value for science, the praise of which can not possibly be exaggerated.

It is a collection of skulls and skeletons found in Greece from all periods—the prehistoric, that is, the period of Mykene, the archaic, the classical, the Roman, and the Christian—and in order to make comparisons with these ancient skulls there are also skulls of our times from different sections of the country.

The founder and conservator of this collection, which is more important than any collection in any other museum in the world, is Dr. Klon Stephanos, the author of a scientific work entitled *La Grèce au point de vue naturel, ethnologique, anthropologique, démographique et médical* (Paris, 1884).

Each and every one of these skulls and other parts of the skeleton have come to light through the official excavations of the Greek Government and the Archæological Society, under the strictest control of men of science who hold themselves responsible to the government and to the world of science. Many of the skulls were taken by Dr. Klon Stephanos himself at the moment of their excavation. The skulls and skeletons are identified as to their origin, that is, the locality where they were found, the surroundings, the grave, the arms, the pottery, the tools, the ornaments—in fact, all that would aid in giving information, nay, conclusive evidence, as to the period to which the skulls or the skeletons belonged.

Here are—an important part of the collection—forty skulls of the prehistoric, of the Mykene period—that is, about the fifteenth century before Christ. Let us see what this number of skulls of this early period signifies. Nine years ago—that is, before this collection was begun—there was not a single Greek skull of this period known to science. Thus the question in regard to the two principal peoples of the most ancient Greece—the Pelasges and the Greeks proper—the question of their being brachycephalous or dolichocephalous, and in what proportion the one or the other form predominated, could by no means be decided. Now, by means of this rich material which presents itself here, it positively and surely may be said: Some of the prehistoric Greeks were mesaticcephalous; others were dolichocephalous.

Until the year 1884 there were, in the different collections of Europe, about ninety ancient skulls known, of which twenty-nine belonged to Attica (Nicolucci, Virchow, Broesike, *et al.*), thirty-eight to Asia Minor (twenty-two to Troy [Virchow] and sixteen to Ionia [Zaborowsky]), four to the Greek islands (Quatrefages), and nineteen to southern Italy and Sicily (Nicolucci *et al.*). This shows that there were only thirty-three skulls from Greece, and that from most parts of Greece not a single ancient skull was known to science. There

was the impossibility of obtaining reliable results in regard to the most important part of Hellenic ethnography, the impossibility of a comparison of the ancient type with all the later types of Greece.

There are in the collection some skeletons from the oldest Iron age of Greece, the twelfth to the thirteenth century before Christ, found at Eleusis. The objects of art found with these skeletons show the geometric instead of the naturalistic style, the latter being the style of Mykene. Of the Iron age, the museum possesses a number of skeletons of very small children which had been preserved in vases in the necropolis of Ereusis. At this period the mesaticephalous and the brachycephalous types begin to make their appearance; the mesaticephalous type is the predominating one, but the brachycephalous type is frequent.

The number of skulls in the Museum of the University of Athens, from this epoch to the classical period, is very large, also the number of those from the Roman and from the Christian periods. Among the ancient skulls there are series from Eratria, Corinth, and Bœotia (Thespia, Chorsia, and Tanagra). Of the more recent periods, there are series of skulls from Thesaly, Naxos, Amorgos, Attica, Ægina, and Megala.

Dr. Stephanos takes the measurements according to the adopted international method, but besides he records according to his own method, which gives the best results. As much as possible, descriptive terms are avoided; the measurements alone, as a rule, are presented to demonstrate the characteristics. These measurements, as they are written down according to both methods for each skull, show quite an extensive amount of work.

While speaking of measurements, I will state here that Dr. Stephanos has measured more than ten thousand heads of Greek recruits. The results of these measurements are demonstrated on a cephalometric map. On this map the administrative divisions are ignored, since they often are completely neutralized by the result

of anthropological researches. Thus, for instance, villages are found far apart which, according to anthropological resemblances, belong together. By lines of different colors the frequency of the different types—hyperbrachycephalic, brachycephalic, mesaticephalic, and dolichocephalic—is demonstrated in a clear manner, and each conglomeration of specimens of the one or the other of these types can be seen at a glance.

The distribution of the frequency of the different colors of eyes and hair is marked on a special map by lines of different color. This latter map is the first of its kind to demonstrate the frequency of these characteristics for each special type.

Dr. Stephanos has improved craniometric methods by demonstrating certain characteristics by means of measurements, and has in this manner given the value of these characteristics in exact mathematical form; he has also complemented the "seriation" method by means of which we are enabled to determine and to distinguish, in all cases in which different types come under consideration, that part which belongs to the one or the other of the different types, and which are the oscillations and the maxima of frequency of each cephalometric character in each series.

But not only has he improved the different craniometric methods, but *on a very large scale* he has devoted himself to the study to give all sorts of elements which can be brought in to aid more or less closely the study of anthropology. In order to carry out this plan, thousands of archives, documents, deeds, ecclesiastical, fiscal, and family papers, especially papers of the Middle Ages, papers never before published, had to be studied, and personal inquiries had to be made in all parts, or among the inhabitants of all parts, of Greece. The results of these researches, comprising every locality of Greece, myriads of names of places, of mountains, of rivers, of families, of words in all the different dialects for things pertaining to agricultural, pastoral, and domestic life, of words from natural history, names for

animals and plants, the geographical domain of each phonetic phenomenon of the Greek dialects, are collected in voluminous manuscripts which I have had the pleasure, the delight, to examine.

There is, first, one volume treating of the relation of all facts pertaining to invasions, captures, the captives taken, the transportation of these captives, massacres, and depopulation.

The collection of family names presented in another manuscript has proved to be of great importance, as one example will demonstrate: In parts where there was a great immigration, as in the island of Zante at the end of the fifteenth century, we find hundreds of family names taken from the files of death certificates. We find these names from the time mentioned down to the present time, and can determine the place whence the individuals came and where they settled with a most surprising exactness and certainty.

There is a map adorning the wall of the Anthropological Museum the like of which has never been executed before in any country. It is a map of Greece of the Middle Ages, with the names of all the villages, places, mountains, rivers, etc., as they were found by the extensive researches in history, in chronicles, in archives, in documents, and in papers that I have mentioned.

One volume belonging to Dr. Stephanos's great work of studying the anthropology of his country in a more satisfactory manner and more thoroughly than ever was done anywhere before gives the provincialisms, the dialects, and phonological characters of all the words for things, as already mentioned, relating to agricultural, pastoral, and domestic life, the terms of natural history in the people's language, for instance, of the fauna and flora of Greece in all the different parts of the country, and also the description of ceremonies, especially of weddings, in their variety and peculiarity to locality.

The following copy, which I was allowed to make, will serve to illustrate this part of the work; it will also

illustrate some of the wonderful poetical beauties of the Greek dialects and the richness of the language:

Ἱρις, *rainbow*.

δοξάρι, *arch*, Syra, Kymi (Eubœa), Cephalonia, Chimarra (Epirus), Eurytania, etc.

δόξα, *glory* (only an abbreviation of a word, not exactly meaning glory), Mykonos, Andros, Kythnos, Karystos, Levadia, Anachona (Bœotia), Doride, Redestos (Thrace).

θεοδόξαρο, *arch of God*, Nauplia, Lamia.

τῆς γρηᾶς τὸ δοξάρι, *the arch of the old woman*, Leucade (Santa Maura).

δοξάρι τῆς καλόγρης, *arch of the nun*, Ithaca.

Κεραζώνη, ἡ, *belt of our lady*, Naxia.

κεραζοῦ, Paros, Kythnos.

κερατζοῦ, Siphnos.

κεραζούλα, Sikinos.

νεραντζούλα, Thera, Milos, Amorgos
(ἀνεραζούλα ?).

The meaning of these words can not be traced.

Ἀγία Ἑλένη, Chios, Mitylini (perhaps first Ἀγίας Ἑλένης ζώνη, *belt of St. Helen*).

Κερασσελένη, Kos.

κερασολένη, Lemnos.

κερασολέ, Ikaria.

κουραλησά, Libision (Asia Minor).

Constructions of which no translation can be given.

Παναγίᾶς τὸ ζωνάρι, *belt of the Blessed Virgin*, Lenkadia.

καλογρηᾶς τὸ ζωνάρι, *belt of the nun*, Sparta, Messina, Argolide.

καλόγρης, Elide.

καλογρές, Gortynia.

Ἀγία ζώνη, *the holy belt*, Syra.

Καμάρα, Megata, Keos, Andros, Kypros.

Λὰδι καὶ κρασί, oil and wine (because the prophecy is: If the rainbow has much of the green color there will be a rich harvest of olives, and if there is much red there will be a good wine year), Monemnasia.

Ἀνεμοδόχους, Mykonos, Tinos.

Μαροῦλι (καμμαροῦλι ?), Magne.

καπιδράνι, Sphakia (Crete).

Dr. Stephanos is preparing a bibliography for his own use and also to aid every student of the subject,

giving the titles of all books, pamphlets, articles in periodicals, and manuscripts which treat of the anthropology of Greece or may serve for its study.

The books, pamphlets, prints of all kinds, and manuscripts which form the library of the Museum of Anthropology of the University of Athens, it goes without saying, make the most complete collection of its kind. The nucleus of this library was the gift of the celebrated man of science, Alexander Paspatis, and his widow has given a considerable sum for the completion of this library.

If we take a glance over the whole, the great collection and the great work connected with it which present themselves to the scholar, we may well envy the University of Athens, and Greece in general, which are so fortunate as to possess them. Here is a rich material for the study of anthropology, and a master is here to make use of it as nobody ever before has been able to do. It is especially noteworthy that one single man is working on a scale of such immense proportions.

A. ROSE, M. D.

The New York Medical Journal.

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF MEDICINE.

EDITED BY

FRANK P. FOSTER, M.D.

THE PHYSICIAN who would keep abreast with the advances in medical science must read a *live* weekly medical journal, in which scientific facts are presented in a clear manner; one for which the articles are written by men of learning, and by those who are good and accurate observers; a journal that is stripped of every feature irrelevant to medical science, and gives evidence of being carefully and conscientiously edited; one that bears upon every page the stamp of desire to elevate the standard of the profession of medicine. Such a journal fulfills its mission—that of educator—to the highest degree, for not only does it inform its readers of all that is new in theory and practice, but, by means of its correct editing, instructs them in the very important yet much-neglected art of expressing their thoughts and ideas in a clear and correct manner. Too much stress can not be laid upon this feature, so utterly ignored by the “average” medical periodical.

Without making invidious comparisons, it can be truthfully stated that no medical journal in this country occupies the place, in these particulars, that is held by THE NEW YORK MEDICAL JOURNAL. No other journal is edited with the care that is bestowed on this; none contains articles of such high scientific value, coming as they do from the pens of the brightest and most learned medical men of America. A glance at the list of contributors to any volume, or an examination of any issue of the JOURNAL, will attest the truth of these statements. It is a journal for the masses of the profession, for the country as well as for the city practitioner; it covers the entire range of medicine and surgery. A very important feature of the JOURNAL is the number and character of its illustrations, which are unequaled by those of any other journal in the world. They appear in frequent issues, whenever called for by the article which they accompany, and no expense is spared to make them of superior excellence.

Subscription price, \$5.00 per annum. Volumes begin in January and July.

PUBLISHED BY

D. APPLETON & CO., 72 Fifth Avenue, New York.

